

Mexican Author Denied

State Dept. Denies Visa, State Dept. Debate Is Off

Carlos Fuentes, Mexican author who was scheduled to debate a State Department official on a television program Sunday, was denied a visa to enter this country by the State Department yesterday, the National Broadcasting Co. said.

Mr. Fuentes, the author of two novels published here and widely acclaimed, was to have appeared on "The Nation's Future," an NBC-TV one-hour panel show, at 5 p. m. He was to debate Richard N. Goodwin, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs, on the subject of how progress can best be achieved in Latin America. NBC said that Mr. Goodwin knew when he agreed to appear on the program that Mr. Fuentes would participate.

According to NBC, the State Department said that the visa had been denied because

was not in the national interest to go on with the debate as planned.

Mr. Fuentes' two novels, "Where the Air Is Clear" and "The Good Conscience," were published here by Ivan Obelensky, who yesterday described Mr. Fuentes' politics as Left wing. Writing in the Herald Tribune section recently, Edmund Fuller described Mr. Fuentes as a writer who "speaks with power, passion and clarity in notable passages."

Mr. Obelensky said that while Mr. Fuentes was somewhat critical of the United States, he wrote "like an angel." "By its shortsighted policy," said Mr. Obelensky, "the State Department provides fodder for those opposed to the U. S." This country, he said, is supposed to be committed to the airing of all kinds of opinion, whether the majority holds the opinion to be right or wrong.

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